

May 3 1943

Mr John Clark
616 Amity St.
Homestead PA.

Dear Clark:

I just received your letter with the line up of The Grays for this Sunday. Thanks for the same. In the same letter was a story about the present argument between our two Negro Leagues. I am sure my thoughts in the matter will not mean a thing, but I would like to say at this time, if our two leagues had accepted Judge William Hastie as Commissioner of Negro Baseball at the time he offered to serve, without pay, for the good of Negro Baseball, I am sure none of these things could be happening today. If they did happen, he would have soon straightened things out.

I still say as I always have, our baseball needs a Commissioner. I won't put in this letter why we do not have one, but you know as well as I do. Until we do have one, these situations will continue to arise. It is not fair to Negro Baseball the players or the Negro race, but what can be done until the Negro owners in the Negro baseball will decide to stick together, and put such a man in office. In this business today there are twelve teams, the great majority of them owned by Negroes a large enough majority, if they would stick together to carry any motion, and dictate any policies, but what happens, Don't ask me you know.

I hope Negro Baseball survives, because to my way of thinking, it is a much bigger thing than Negro Baseball, it is one of our biggest businesses, one that is important to so many of our people. Those in the deep south, the mid west, in fact all over the world, people know that Negroes are fine ballplayers, in fact tops in all fields of athletics. I honestly believe, if the day ever comes when our ballplayers can get the care and attention ballplayers should have, you will see balls hit further etc. than ever before.

Sincerely